

PATENT APPLICATION
41530/28291

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to examination on the merits, kindly amend the above-identified patent application per the following instructions.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

At page one after the title and before the first line of text, please insert:

--This patent application claims the benefit of priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) of United States Provisional Patent Application No. 60/225,082, filed August 14, 2000. U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/225,082 is incorporated by reference in its entirety.--

This amendment is simply a claim for priority, and therefore no new material has been added to the application.

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Kindly consider this preliminary amendment and enter it into the record of this application. Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached at (314) 552-6443. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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